Hawairs Bad Policy (Seattle Post-Intelligence:).

A question of considerable commercial interest is likely to arise between the United States and Hawaii over reciprocal relations. One of the Honolulu papers recently admitted that there was ground for complaint on the part of the United States already, but that does not seem to have deterred the government from offering still further provocation. The newspaper referred to, which is said to be owned by one of the members of the Dole administration, went so far as to utter the

following warning:

"The people of this country cannot pass heedlessly the growing tendency among the business men of the Western States to come to the conclusion that the people of Hawaii are not doing their share to give a fair return for the benefits derived from the friendly legislation of the United States." And we are finally furnished with the following indisputable facts, couched in this language:

"Sooner or later citizens of Hawaii are bound to have demonstrated to them that they can't have their commercial cake and eat it. We cannot continue to be treated on the same plane as American producers and, when purchasing, take our money to another market."

Nevertheless the Hawaiian government is preparing to discriminate against Californian wines and American beer by the imposition of a restrictive duty in addition to the license fee for retailing of \$1,000 a year. A bill has been introduced into the legislature doubling the duty on beer of 15 cents a gallon, and making it 30 cents; from 40 cents per dozen quarts, to 80 cents, and from 20 cents per dozen pints to 40 cents. Wines under 21 degrees will be raised from 15 cents per gallon to 50 cents.

This policy should suggest to the United States the desirability of withdrawing the reciprocity treaty, which it might fairly do, and so giving the sugar planters, who are the principal legislators, a dose of their own medicine. The effect of such prohibitive duties would shut out California wines from the Hawaiian market entirely, and interfere seriously with the importation of the other com-

modities. The excuse given is that more revenue must be raised; but the merchants are inclined to the belief that the wiser course would be to retrench in some of the expenditures and not impose duty which will not only fail to bring revenue by killing the goose which lays the golden eggs, but will provoke this country to retaliatory measures.

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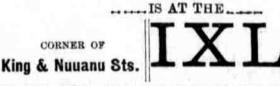
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